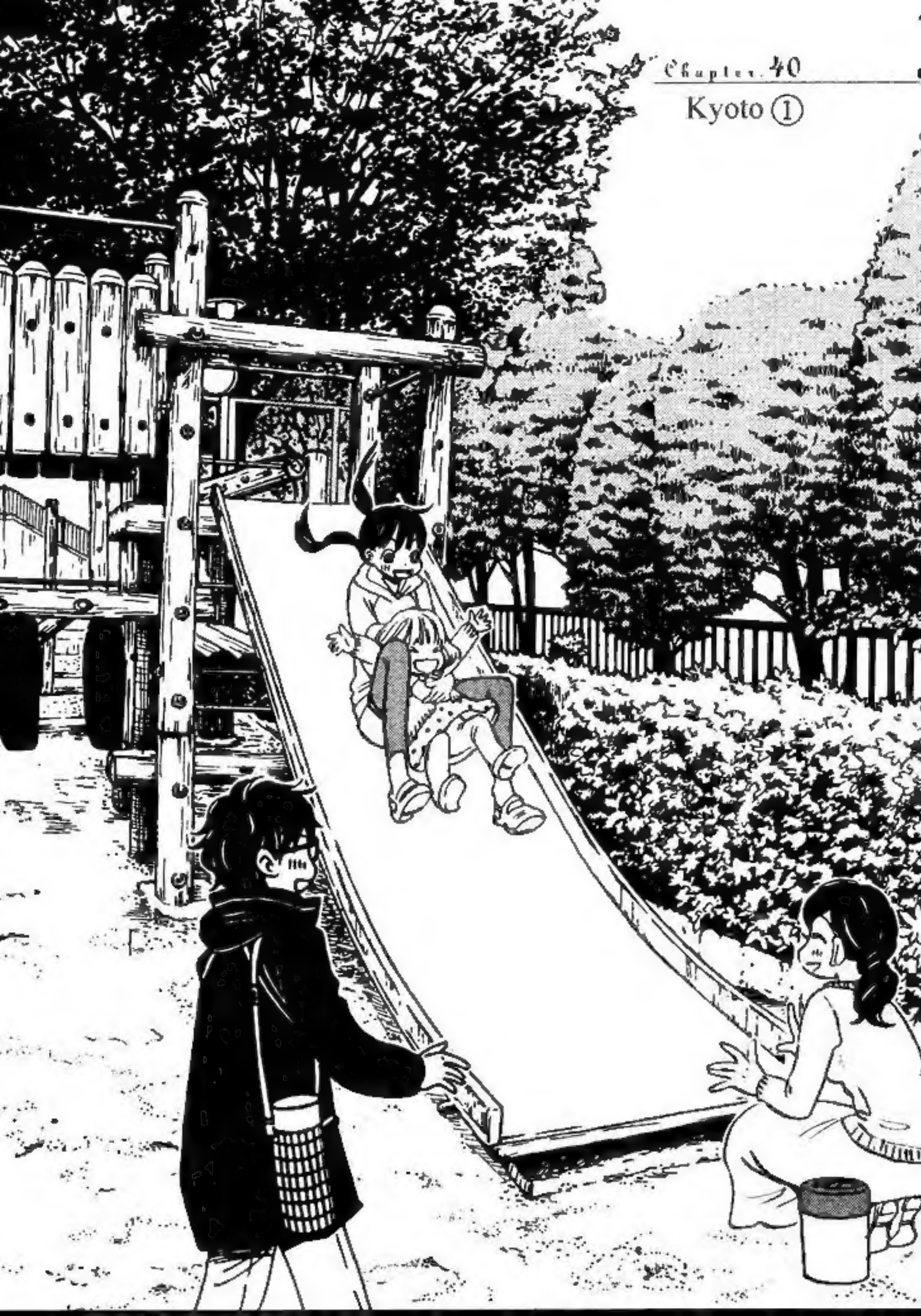
Chapter. 40

Kyoto ①



OKAY

THERE.

BRRRumble

Tokyo

Nozomi 00 will be leaving from Line 12

at 8:05

THANKS,

SORRY FOR ALL THIS, KIRIYAMA...

I'VE HAD IT IN MY POCKET.

AND SOME TEA IF YOU DON'T MIND IT BEING WARM.

OKAY, HERE'S A BLANKET,

SORRY ABOUT THIS.

I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

IT'S GOING TO TAKE ABOUT 2 HOURS.

I'LL WAKE YOU WHEN WE ARRIVE.

GET SOME REST.

OK

I CONTINUED TO LEARN FROM SHIMADA IN HIS BEATEN DOWN STATE.

BUT...

YEAH, I'M COMING WITH YOU AFTER ALL,

I CAN'T LET YOU GO ALONE IN THIS STATE.

SORRY

THIS IS THE MAKE OR BREAK GAME.

I JUST DON'T WANT TO SUFFER

A TOTAL DEFEAT...

AFTER THAT,

OKAY.

fwoosh

DOUBT AND REGRET SWIRLED AROUND ME...

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I INSISTED, HE WOULDN'T REST AS HE SHOULD HAVE.

EVEN THOUGH HIS FACE TURNED SO PALE,

ON THE RIGHT FACING THE KYOTO TOWER.

OH, OKAY.

LET'S SEE WHERE ARE THE TAXIS PARKED?

出口 Exit

Kyoto Kyoto

YES SIR.

TAKE US TO THE 2ND KYOTO HOTEL, PLEASE.

THEY'RE HERE!

HEEEY! SHIMADA!

Shishiou Title Match 4th Round

Sponsored by:

CHAIRMAN, CAN YOU STOP SAYING SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE THINGS?!

YOU'LL NEVER GET A TITLE AT THIS RATE!

IS YOUR STOMACH GONNA KEEP YOU FROM PLAYING?

HEY, SHOW THEM TO HIS ROOM!

WELL, GO TO YOUR ROOM AND REST UP UNITL THE NIGHT BEFORE THE MATCH.

STOMACH AGAIN?

YEAH... SORRY...

THAT THING'S A PIECE OF JUNK!

CHAIR MAN,

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY.

OH HEY KIRIYAMA, GOOD TO SEE YOU HERE~

EH? OH NO!

AM I BEING TOO PUSHY?!

YOU SOUND LIKE MY MOM.

NO, NO. NOT AT ALL.

HEH HEH HEH

WHAT?

IF YOU NEED ME, CALL RIGHT AWAY.

I'VE LEFT WATER, TEA AND YOUR PHONE AT YOUR BEDSIDE.

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU RESTED.

THANK YOU.

Hmph

KIRIYAMA.

HMM

THIS COMES AS A SUPRISE

YEAH, I THINK I'LL DROP BY A CONVENIENCE STORE FOR A BOOK AND SOMETHING TO DRINK.

Pit Pat

LET'S SEE...

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

NOW THEN...

I'VE GOT TO GO BRING MR. TITLE HOLDER BACK...

HE'S GONE OFF AGAIN.

WHERE DOES HE THINK THIS IS, HIS OWN BACKYARD? WANDERING AROUND OVER THERE...

I'M GRATEFUL YOU DECIDED TO ACCOMPANY SHIMADA HERE.

.....

YOU'RE ONE OF THE KIDS FROM THE NEW GENERATION,

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE MORE ALOOF.

20th Annual Shishiou

Eve of the 4th round

IN SUCH A FAMOUS PLACE?

ISN'T THAT PLACE A HUGE TOURIST TRAP?

NAH,

IT'S REALLY QUIET YOU BEEN THERE?

OH YEAH

OVER BY GINKAKU TEMPLE

HIS BACKYARD?

I'D BETTER GO FETCH HIM.

UGH, RIGHT NOW I'M SURE HE'S STARING OFF INTO SPACE, MILES AWAY FROM THE REST OF US.

NAH THAT DOESN'T WORK.

CAN YOU SEND A MESSENGER ?

OR CALL HIM?

HAVEN'T BEEN HERE SINCE MY MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS TRIP.

LET'S SEE,

KYOTO HUH?

I WONDER IF I GOT A SOUVENIER.

IF IT WOULD MAKE HINA AND THE OTHERS HAPPY.

Victory in 5-7 Moves Handbook

HUH, WHERE'S KIRIYAMA?

Eee

ha ha ha

DUNNO, DOESN'T MATTER.

HE'S FREE TO DO WHAT HE WANTS.

ha ha ha

This is still our free time, right?

Woul..

Eeek!

THERE'S NO PLACE I WANT TO GO.

I'LL GO BACK

BEEP BEEP

Papa!

GUESS .....

Vroom

AND THEN NIGHT FELL.

AND THE PRE-MATCH PARTY FOR THE 4TH ROUND OF THE SHISHIOU TOURNAMENT BEGAN.

Pre Match Party Hall

HE WAS IN SUCH PAIN EARLIER...

BUT HE HASN'T TAKEN ANYTHING SINCE THE EVENING.

AND HE'S CONVERSING WITH THEM,-- WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE.

EVERYONE'S FLOCKING AROUND SHIMADA

"YEAH

THAT'LL BE HARD FOR ME TO ACCEPT.

"IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE,

IF THIS CONTINUES TOMORROW, IT'LL ALL BE FOR NOTHING, HUH?"

A FLASH IGNITED IN MY CHEST BURNING ME.

I KNOW, I UNDERSTAND, BUT...

BUT I ALSO HAVE A DUTY TO STAND BEFORE THE PEOPLE WHO WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO PREPARE THIS PLACE FOR US.

MY MAIN DUTY HERE IS TO PLAY A GOOD GAME, AND DELIVER A GOOD SHOW.

HUH?

ONE AFTER ANOTHER, I THOUGHT IT MUST BE LIKE THE BURNING PAIN IN SHIMADA'S STOMACH

SHIMADA...

20th Shishiou Title Match
Round Four
Pre-match Celebration

ARE THEY,

TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING?

I'M FINE.
MY DUTY IS OVER, IT SEEMS.
WHY SO SUDDENLY?
ARE YOU OK?
.....
SHIMADA ?
I'M EATING
GOING OUTSIDE

BESIDES, SOYA'S THE ONE EVERYONE'S HERE TO SEE!

NO WORRIES!! I'M NOT ABOUT TO SCOLD YOU OR ANYTHING

I'M SORRY

IN PREPARATION FOR TOMORROW, I'M GONNA-

HEY!

GOOD WORK FINISHING YOUR DUTIES

I TOLD HIM, "IT'S UP TO YOU FROM HERE"

HA HA HA

forgetaboutit

!?

aaaah!!

CHAIRMAN!!

Oh my god!

HE'S GOTTA DO THE HARD PART.

RIGHT? YOU'D NEVER GUESS YOU'RE THE SAME AGE!

IT IS A BIT ANNOYING, SEIYA'S ALWAYS GLISTENING, AND FULL OF ENERGY ..

If anything, you and I look the same age don't you think?

Haa...

Ha. Ha...

OH, RIGHT, KIRIYAMA,

AFTER THE INTRODUCTIONS, IT BECOMES THE "LET'S FAWN OVER SOYA" SHOW.

ALWAYS.

.....

YEAH.

RIGHT?

WELL, YOU DON'T REALLY STAND OUT HERE OR ANYPLACE FOR THAT MATTER!

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN THE BACKGROUND COMPARED TO HIM.

ha ha ha!

chairman, just stop please chairman

Seriously...

KIRIYAMA, I ASKED SMITH IF HE'D TAKE OVER YOUR INSTRUCTION FOR TONIGHT.

He's your substitute teacher.

TAKE HIM BACK TO YOUR ROOM.

HUH?

NO THANKS. I WAS GOING TO GO TO A NET CAFE.

IDIOT, THAT'S NOT ALLOWED.

LISTEN, SMITH'S STILL IN THE PARTY HALL. GO CALL OUT TO HIM.

LATER

Wah

SLEEP WELL.

TAKE CARE

Why are you still worrying about other people...

Bye

TAKE CARE OF THAT STOMACH PAIN.

DING DONG

THIS STINKS, JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I'D GET SOME TIME ALONE TO RELAX.

OH, SORRY! NEVER MIND ME, I'LL JUST GO TO A NET CAFE OR SOMETHING!

Waaah

DONT TAKE EVERYTHING SO SERIOUSLY! YOU'RE SUCH A PAIN!

Hey!!

RRRRR

HMM?

HOLD ON A SEC.

YES?

HELLO?

YOU OK?

OH YEAH, FEELING LONELY WITHOUT ME, HUH?

YUP

YLIP

ME? I WAS THINKING I MIGHT GO TO BED SOON.

YEAH.

SO? WHATCHA DOING?

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?! I'VE NEVER HAD HER IN MY LAP! I'VE NEVER GOTTEN MORE THAN A HUG!!

W- WHAT?! YOU'RE ON HIS LAP?!

Whaaat

ICHIGO ?!

HUH? THAT VOICE JUST NOW?

WHAT? WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO OTHER THAN ME WITH YOUR SWEET VOICE?!

ATE IT UP, HUH?

HUH?

YOU HUNGRY?

H-

HIS GIRL FRIEND ?

AND SHE'S WITH SOMEONE ELSE? LOVE TRIANGLE?

thump

Should I still be standing here?

thump

YEAH

TAKE CARE...

You're just a kid. Can you wait here?

I'M ... KIRIYAMA ...

GONNA GO... FOR A DRINK...

aah... my little pussy cat. (The choice of words is deliberate)

Swish

glooom

siiiiigh...

U-UM...

SMITH?

Leaden

WELL, IT IS NOW 9 O'CLOCK

THE SHISHIOU TITLE HOLDER SOYA WILL MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

AND THE FOURTH ROUND OF THE SHISHIOU TOURNAMENT BEGAN

AND SO,

AS IF IT WEREN'T THERE AT ALL, THE NIGHT QUIETLY TURNED TO DAY.

PLEASE BEGIN.

SHIMADA

WERE YOU ABLE TO GET SOME SLEEP LAST NIGHT?

WHAT TO DO HERE?

SINCE HE WASN'T PUSHING HIMSELF INTO PRACTICE WITH ME, HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN RESTING, BUT...

I WENT AND EARNED THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE HIM,

I CAN'T PLAY A LOUSY GAME

I COULDN'T FORGIVE MYSELF...

I WONDER IF HIS STOMACH IS STILL HURTING HIM?

HIS FACE ISN'T REVEALING ANYTHING...

EVEN IF I WORRY ABOUT IT

ONCE THE CURTAIN FALLS ON THIS STRUGGLE,

ONCE IT'S DOWN

NO ONE CAN RAISE IT AGAIN.